

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-65 (cancelled)

66. (currently amended) A data access domain method executed by a programmable computer, the method comprising:

(a) receiving, with a programmable computer, read data requests, write data requests, and requests to perform operations from a plurality of incompatible applications remote from said programmable computer, said incompatible applications comprising:

- (i) an insurance application,
- (ii) a bank application,
- (iii) a vehicle dealer application, and
- (~~iii~~iv) a motor vehicle agency application;

(b) transmitting, with the programmable computer, received requests to a plurality of incompatible databases remote from said programmable computer, said incompatible databases comprising:

- (i) an insurance database,
- (ii) a bank database,
- (iii) a vehicle dealer database, and
- (iv) a motor vehicle agency database;

(c) receiving, with the programmable computer, data responses from the plurality of incompatible databases, the data responses corresponding to the transmitted requests from the

plurality of incompatible applications; and

(d) transmitting, with the programmable computer, the data responses to the plurality of incompatible applications, each data response being transmitted in a format compatible with the application to which it is transmitted.

67. (previously presented) The data access domain method of claim 66 further comprising managing communications connections and request queues.

68. (previously presented) The data access domain method of claim 66 further comprising checking authorization of an application to make a request.

69. (previously presented) The data access domain method of claim 66 further comprising generating an audit list of data requests for tracking transactions.

70. (previously presented) The data access domain method of claim 66 further comprising checking authorization of an application to receive a response.

71. (previously presented) The data access domain method of claim 66 further comprising employing an application interface specific to each of the plurality of incompatible applications.

72. (previously presented) The data access domain method of claim 66 wherein the step of receiving data responses comprises employing software components for allowing databases to access other databases.

73. (previously presented) The data access domain method of claim 66 wherein data responses are received from interfaces specific to the incompatible databases, the interfaces extracting data from appropriate files and fields in the databases and mapping and performing stored procedures upon the extracted data to provide responses to requests.

74. (previously presented) The data access domain method of claim 66 further comprising monitoring all received requests and all data responses to identify any request or response that constitutes an application trigger and for generating an appropriate application trigger message to activate an appropriate application in response to an application trigger.

75. (previously presented) The data access domain method of claim 66, wherein the requests and data responses are transmitted electronically using at least one of : the Internet, leased telephone lines, wireless communication, local area networks, wide-area networks, dial-up, a combination of telecommunication links, satellite communication, and exchange of removable media.

76. (previously presented) The data access domain method of claim 66 wherein said incompatible applications further comprise one or more of: after market store applications, salvage company applications, supplier company applications, car company applications, retailer applications, consumer applications, internet-based applications, auction house applications, automotive broker applications, collision repair applications, and information broker company applications.

77. (previously presented) The data access domain method of claim 66 wherein said incompatible databases further comprise one or more of: after market store databases, salvage company databases, supplier company databases, car company databases, retailer databases, consumer databases, internet-based databases, auction house databases, automotive broker databases, collision repair databases, and information broker company databases.

78. (currently amended) A programmable computing apparatus comprising:

(a) means for receiving read data requests, write data requests, and requests to

perform operations from a plurality of incompatible applications remote from said programmable computer, said incompatible applications comprising:

- (i) an insurance application,
- (ii) a bank application,
- (ii) a vehicle dealer application, and
- (iii) a motor vehicle agency application;

(b) means for transmitting received requests to a plurality of incompatible databases remote from said programmable computer, said incompatible databases comprising:

- (i) an insurance database,
- (ii) a bank database,
- (iii) a vehicle dealer database, and
- (iv) a motor vehicle agency database;

(c) means for receiving data responses from the plurality of incompatible databases, the data responses corresponding to the transmitted requests from the plurality of incompatible applications; and

(d) means for transmitting the data responses to the plurality of incompatible applications, each data response being transmitted in a format compatible with the application to which it is transmitted.

79. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 78 further comprising means for managing communications connections and request queues.

80. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 78 further comprising means for checking authorization of an application to make a request.

81. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 78 further comprising means for generating an audit list of data requests for tracking transactions.

82. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 78 further comprising means for checking authorization of an application to receive a response.

83. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 78 further comprising an application interface specific to each of the plurality of incompatible applications.

84. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 78 wherein the means for receiving data responses comprises software components for allowing databases to access other databases.

85. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 78 further comprising interfaces specific to the incompatible databases, the interfaces extracting data from appropriate files and fields in the databases and mapping and performing stored procedures upon the extracted data to provide responses to requests.

86. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 78 further comprising means for monitoring all received requests and all data responses to identify any request or response that constitutes an application trigger and for generating an appropriate application trigger message to activate an appropriate application in response to an application trigger.

87. (previously presented) The apparatus claim 78, wherein the requests and data responses are transmitted electronically using at least one of : the Internet, leased telephone lines, wireless communication, local area networks, wide-area networks, dial-up, a combination of telecommunication links, satellite communication, and exchange of removable media.

88. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 78 wherein said incompatible applications further comprise one or more of: after market store applications, salvage company applications, supplier company applications, car company applications, retailer applications, consumer applications, internet-based applications, auction house applications, automotive

broker applications, collision repair applications, and information broker company applications.

89. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 78 wherein said incompatible databases further comprise one or more of: after market store databases, salvage company databases, supplier company databases, car company databases, retailer databases, consumer databases, internet-based databases, auction house databases, automotive broker databases, collision repair databases, and information broker company databases.

90. (currently amended) A machine readable memory medium comprising:

(a) means for receiving, with a programmable computer, read data requests, write data requests, and requests to perform operations from a plurality of incompatible applications remote from said programmable computer, said incompatible applications comprising:

- (i) an insurance application,
- (ii) a bank application,
- (ii) a vehicle dealer application, and
- (iii) a motor vehicle agency application;

(b) means for transmitting, with the programmable computer, received requests to a plurality of incompatible databases remote from said programmable computer, said incompatible databases comprising:

- (i) an insurance database,
- (ii) a bank database,
- (iii) a vehicle dealer database, and
- (iv) a motor vehicle agency database;

(c) means for receiving, with the programmable computer, data responses from the plurality of incompatible databases, the data responses corresponding to the transmitted requests from the plurality of incompatible applications; and

(d) means for transmitting, with the programmable computer, the data responses to the plurality of incompatible applications, each data response being transmitted in a format compatible with the application to which it is transmitted.

91. (previously presented) The medium of claim 90 further comprising means for managing communications connections and request queues.

92. (previously presented) The medium of claim 90 further comprising means for checking authorization of an application to make a request.

93. (previously presented) The medium of claim 90 further comprising means for generating an audit list of data requests for tracking transactions.

94. (previously presented) The medium of claim 90 further comprising means for checking authorization of an application to receive a response.

95. (previously presented) The medium of claim 90 further comprising an application interface specific to each of the plurality of incompatible applications.

96. (previously presented) The medium of claim 90 further comprising software components for allowing databases to access other databases.

97. (previously presented) The medium of claim 90 further comprising interfaces specific to the incompatible databases, the interfaces extracting data from appropriate files and fields in the databases and mapping and performing stored procedures upon the extracted data to provide responses to requests.

98. (previously presented) The medium of claim 90 further comprising means for monitoring all received requests and all data responses to identify any request or response that

constitutes an application trigger and for generating an appropriate application trigger message to activate an appropriate application in response to an application trigger.

99. (previously presented) The medium of claim 90, wherein the requests and data responses are transmitted electronically using at least one of : the Internet, leased telephone lines, wireless communication, local area networks, wide-area networks, dial-up, a combination of telecommunication links, satellite communication, and exchange of removable media.

100. (previously presented) The medium of claim 90 wherein said incompatible applications further comprise one or more of: after market store applications, salvage company applications, supplier company applications, car company applications, retailer applications, consumer applications, internet-based applications, auction house applications, automotive broker applications, collision repair applications, and information broker company applications.

101. (previously presented) The medium of claim 90 wherein said incompatible databases further comprise one or more of: after market store databases, salvage company databases, supplier company databases, car company databases, retailer databases, consumer databases, internet-based databases, auction house databases, automotive broker databases, collision repair databases, and information broker company databases.